

**1. CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

What is claimed is:

C1 1. (currently amended) A method for enhancing the function of normal or abnormal excitable tissue in a mammal comprising administering peripherally to said mammal a peripherally effective, non-toxic, excitable tissue enhancing amount of ~~an recombinant EPO, an EPO receptor activity modulator, an EPO activated receptor modulator, or combination thereof.~~

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said enhancing the function of excitable tissue results in the enhancement of associative learning or memory.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said enhancing the function of excitable tissue is used in the treatment of cognitive dysfunction.

C2 4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said excitable tissue is central nervous system tissue ~~or peripheral nervous system tissue.~~

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration comprises ~~oral, topical, intraluminal or by inhalation or~~ parenteral administration.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein said parenteral administration is intravenous.

C3 7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration is acute ~~or chronic.~~

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said EPO is administered at a dose greater than the dose necessary to maximally stimulate erythropoiesis.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)